(e) if so, the action taken thereon;

(f) whether there is any delay in finalizing Compulsory Education Bill; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (g) The Report of a Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) which was constituted to, *inter alia,* suggest a draft of a Bill for Free and Compulsory Education of Children of 6-14 years' age group, was discussed in a meeting of the Board held on 14-15 July, 2005. The Report contained the Committee's recommendations regarding "essential provisions" of the proposed Bill on the above subject. The recommended "essential provisions" contain, *inter alia,* certain features of the Common School System also.

CABE is an advisory body and does not take "decisions". The above Report presented to CABE contains the recommended "essential provisions" of a Bill which has to be enacted as a Constitutional obligation. The question of it implying any abdication of state's Constitutional obligation does not arise.

Further action is being taken in the light of recommendations of the above CABE Committee which have been received only in the beginning of July, 2005. The question of any delay in finalization of the Bill, therefore, does not armise.

Affairs of institutions for disabled

108. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that three apex institutions for the disabled are practically headless;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had abolished the National Disability Commission; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) There are six apex level National Institutions (NIs) functioning in the field of disability, each headed by a Director. Two posts of Director are vacant.

(b) The post of Director National Institutes of Visually Handicapped (NIVH) was advertised. No suitable candidate had applied. Effort was made to obtain suitable person on deputation from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and from the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services. In respect of Director of National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research (NIRTAR), the post was advertised for the third time as no suitable candidate had applied in response to 2 earlier advertisements. The Selection Committee has met and the case is being processed. The Director National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped (NIOH) has been temporarily stationed at Lucknow to accelerate the functioning of the Composite Rehabilitation Centre.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) had recommended that the office of Chief Commissioner Disabilities(CCD) should continue. In view of the overlapping of the function of CCD and the Central Coordination Committee (CCC) both set up under the Persons with Disability Act, 1995 it was decided to wind up the National Commission for Persons with Disability (NCPD).

Stress-free examination

*113. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBSE plans stress-free examination measures for reducing stress on students;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CBSE proposes to give students extra 15 minutes before commencement of the examination to study the question papers;

(c) if so, the ways in which this would help students; and

(d what other steps CBSE proposes to make the entire examination systems stress-free?